

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 14 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite. The examiner objects to "contour of a tubular fluorescent lamp". The claim language has been changed to simply read that the light guide is rod-shaped.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Finch et al.* (US 5,184,883) and *Berg* (US 6,286,984).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature that the ray emitted by the LEDs are partially reflected on the reflector so as to pass through the light guide before impinging on the lens to provide a band-shaped or rod-shaped light area to a person looking at the light assembly. This feature is described in the instant specification in the paragraph beginning on line 6 of page 4.

The prior art reference to *Finch et al.* describes a vehicle lamp with a lens, a reflector, and a rod-shaped light guide arranged between reflector and lens, as well as a light source hidden from view. However, in this configuration all rays emitted by the light sources are guided by the reflector 14 to the light guide 18. Accordingly, the rays are not partially directly reflected onto the lens and partially reflected onto the light guide and then onto the lens. Therefore, the instant configuration where the rays are partially reflected on the reflector so as to pass through the light guide such that a band-shaped or rod-shaped light area becomes visible is not obvious in view of the primary prior art reference.

The secondary reference to *Berg* is cited only to provide a teaching for housings as well-known elements of vehicle lamps. This secondary reference does not provide a teaching in regard to partially reflecting rays onto a light guide such that a rod-shaped or band-shaped like area appears.

Therefore, claim 1 as amended is believed to be allowable over the two prior art references together with its dependent claims.

Claims 6, 9-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Finch et al.* (US 5,184,883), *Berg* (US 6,286,984), and further in view of *Beck et al.* (US 6,107,916).

The claims 6, 9-11 should be allowable as dependent claims of amended claim 1;

the reference to *Beck et al.* only teaches a signal lamp having a light guide extending about the periphery of the lamp. This does not provide any teaching in regard to the features added to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims are not obvious in view of the cited prior art references.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 8, 13, 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 8 and 13 have been amended to include the features of claim 1, respectively, and should thus be allowable together with their dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or e-mail from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Please note the attached change of correspondence address form and direct all future correspondence to the address associated with the customer number provided thereon.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on August 4, 2003,

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GEH/Encl.: time extension petition (1 sheet) and change of correspondence address form (1 sheet)